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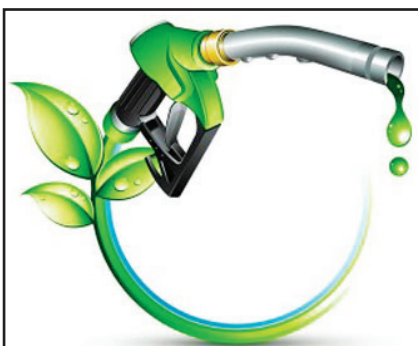
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Airplane rivals launch joint biofuel project



PARIS (AFP) - Plane makers and bitter rivals Airbus of Europe, Boeing of the US and Embraer of Brazil announced on Thursday a joint plan to develop affordable biofuels for the airplane industry.

The airplane sector leaders agreed to seek opportunities "to speak in unity" to government and biofuel producers "to support, promote and accelerate the availability of sustainable new jet fuel sources," a joint statement from the companies said.

The collaboration is intended to come up with a so-called "drop in" technology that all airplane models could use, regardless of the make.

Airbus and Boeing have already launched programmes independently to

develop alternatives to kerosene, a major greenhouse gas pollutant, to power its airplanes.

"We are all committed to take a leading role in the development of technology programmes that will facilitate aviation biofuels development and actual application faster than if we were doing it independently," said Paulo César Silva, Embraer chief executive.

The planemakers said they were committed to reducing the industry's substantial carbon footprint, the term commonly used for emissions of greenhouse gases.

"We've achieved a lot in the last 10 years in reducing our industry's (carbon) CO2 footprint -- a 45 percent traffic growth with only three percent more fuel consumption," Airbus chief executive Tom Enders said.

Airbus on Wednesday announced a collaboration with airline Virgin Australia to explore biofuel production from eucalyptus leaves that grow in arid regions.

Aruba to be subject of 12 page supplement to weekend edition of USA Today



Prime Minister Mike Eman with Rocio De Mingo

Aruban business, tourism and financial executives are presently being interviewed by a team from United World, an independent, international media communications agency which boasts an exclusive agreement with USA Today newspaper since 1994. The company's purpose is to "deliver timely, credible economic reports" to "a sophisticated American audience-making the changing world more understandable, while highlighting many new business opportunities in both established and up-and-coming markets."

Project Manager Rocio De Mingo of Spain and Editorial Director Fabricio Sordoni from Argentina expressed fervent belief that Aruba certainly fits the latter description after nearly 10 weeks interviewing and analyzing the material they have collected, which will be summa-

rized in a 12-page special section of the weekend edition of USA Today, expected to be published in late May-early June. It is projected to coincide with a conference on Aruba, now in the planning stages, that will provide a meeting ground for business people from Europe and Latin America, as island government aspires to establish

Aruba as a facilitating element between the two continents, regarding trade and commerce.

United World's research department became quite interested in Aruba, particularly because of its high-profile "Green Energy" program and the groundbreaking establishment of a TNO Caribbean Branch on the island, a Dutch energy think tank partnered with over 17 energy producers of every kind, including strong ties to renewable energy research and technology development. The final report will also be spotlighted on the financial analysis and news website: <http://www.worldfolio.co.uk/>.

Aside from the Aruba's green energy initiative, De Mingo and Sordoni find there are many interesting areas in which Aruba is striving to develop and diversify its economy, besides tourism. "Aruba is certainly setting an example with the "Green Gateway" pointed out De Mingo. "Not only for the region, but the world...we noticed the government is working hard to provide new legislation to protect the "green Aruba," which we applaud, and believe also sets a global example."

Continued on pg 2



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The Hague reaching out to Aruba regarding Valero situation

The Valero Aruba Refinery has decided to suspend their operations temporarily by month's end. The development in Aruba regarding the Valero Refinery is being followed very closely by the Hague. In connection with the announcement of the temporary suspension of Valero, members of the Second House of Chambers in the Hague have indicated that they ought to offer a helping hand to help guarantee the employment of the Valero employees. They understand that the closure of the Refinery will have a major negative impact on the Aruban community.

In the words of Dutch officials, "...we are part of one Dutch Kingdom (together with Aruba), hence we must make every effort to keep the refinery open, this is why we must offer Aruba our assistance." Member of the Second House of Chamber, Van Raak, indicated that he will request Minister Verhagen of Economic, Agricultural and Innovation Affairs to look into the matter.

Another member of the Chamber reported that they ought to inform the Aruba government that Holland is very willing to help. The primary responsibility, obviously, lies with the

autonomous government of Aruba. Because Aruba is an autonomous island, we cannot impose or intrude, but if Aruba requests our help, we must stimulate our Dutch government to respond positively.

According to Mr. Bosman of the VVD party, "...This news is not good news at all. Assistance from Holland must focus on using the network of contacts of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. The current developments mandate the need for Aruba to diversify her economy. This, claims Bosman should occur rapidly so that Aruba can deal with an eventual closure of the refinery.

Still another member of the Second Chamber, Mr. Van Gent, is of the opinion that should Aruba request their assistance, they should supply us with their professionals to help Aruba find a solution for the Valero Refinery. Van Gent went on to say that, even if Aruba succeeds in finding a buyer for Valero, this will be no guarantee for the future. For this reason he is advising that Aruba should amplify her horizons, and ascertain and explore which are the alternative scenarios. This will fortify Aruba's negotiation position.

Aruba to be subject of 12 page supplement to weekend edition of USA Today

continued from pg 1

They admit the imminent closing of the Valero Refinery is a setback, but from what they have seen, they have faith in the resilience and ingenuity of the Aruban people and its present government. "Another focus is Aruba as a geographical bridge; uniting companies from Europe which want to jump into Latin America, but are looking for a base and a partner of choice. Aruba is ideal because of location, but also stable government, economy, and a solid legal system based on Dutch law; there is also infrastructure, services and human talent, many qualities in Aruba that have the promise of great potential."

Personally, De Mingo and Sordoni, after spending nearly 10 weeks on the island, have become devoted fans of Aruba, like many veteran vacationers. "We have traveled around the world reporting on countries all over the globe and Arubans are, without question, the nicest, most hospitable people we have ever met anywhere. We were lost and a gentleman got in his car and went totally out of his way to take us where we needed to go. Nearly every day we have an experience that reinforces our opinion of the island people, and all it has to offer. It truly is "One Happy Island."

"We have noticed, more than any other Caribbean island, Aruba is working to build bridges, taking groundbreaking initiatives, and finding niches," observed



Fabrizio Sordoni and Rocio De Mingo

Sordoni. "The country is small, and it understands it must be innovative in expanding its economy. The government is not like other countries, which are pursuing unoriginal methods, ordinary recipes for development. Here they are very holistic in their approach to development, which we feel is worth reporting about."

They also complemented the "Bo Barrio" initiative, the town meetings and community building steps taken of the present administration, meeting with the population at their level and allowing them input into the direction in which they feel the island needs to grow and develop sustainability. In their opin-

ion, this is unheard of through much of the world, but particularly to the region, or for developing countries.

Aruba is the first Caribbean island that came to United World's attention after the industrial giant that is Trinidad and Tobago; they have already published a report on Suriname, and the T & T report should be

coming out very soon. They have a strong presence in Latin America, which has a booming economy, so it is of great interest to North American and European investors.

"The idea is to create a very holistic and multi-disciplinary approach of what is going on in Latin America," explained Sordoni, "with a special focus on the Caribbean. We think the stories happening here are worth being voiced out to the United States and will have a global audience." 375,000 copies of the final USA supplemental report will be distributed in four regions, South Florida, New York, Washington, D.C. and Boston.

By Rosalie Klein



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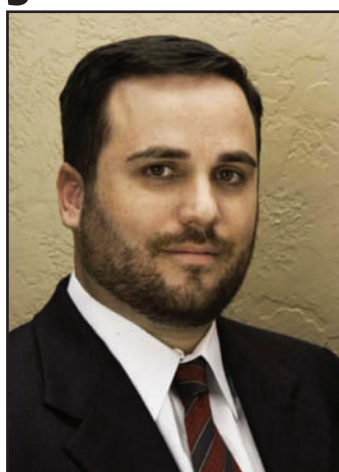
Nathaniel L. Tarlow, invited speaker at the "4th Caribbean Tourism Security Conference" on June 5, 6

Nathaniel "Nate" Tarlow is an attorney and one of the founding partners of the law firm Laird Valdez, LLP in Houston, Texas. Due to his travels throughout the world and his sensitivity to international cultural issues Tarlow brings a wealth of knowledge to the tourism industry and combines legal knowledge with tourism knowledge. Tarlow has traveled the world and learned about tourism and how it affects local economies and customs.

In his Houston Texas practice, Tarlow represents a very diverse clientele and is accustomed to approaching legal matters and business matters from a culturally appropriate and international perspective. Some of Tarlow's achieve-

ments have garnered him recognition and awards both inside the United States and also internationally. In 2008, Tarlow was designated as one of the top 10 heroes of the Republic of Honduras by the "El Herald" newspaper for a legal victory involving a deported Honduran citizen. Tarlow's law practice has a strong international component and represents clients of various national and ethnic backgrounds.

Tarlow is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, with a double major in History and in Latin American Studies. During his university years, Tarlow worked for the Texas Rural Development Council and honed his skills as a writer and communica-



Nathaniel L. Tarlow, Esq
Citizen of: USA

Languages: English, Spanish
tor. Tarlow is fluent in both English and Spanish. Upon graduation, Tarlow came to understand multiple aspects

of the tourism industry through his work in the marketing department of the Mirage Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nevada), and also as a bi-lingual tour guide with the United States Federal Government at the Hoover Dam.

These work experiences helped Tarlow to understand the needs of various aspects of the tourism industry and the impact of customer service within the industry. Tarlow has utilized good people skills and the ability to interact productively with people from diverse racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds as a part of his legal practice.

Tarlow graduated from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas in 2004.

During law school, Mr. Tarlow clerked under Justice Linda R. Yanez of the Thirteenth District Court of Appeals and also worked for the law firm of Schneider and McKinney, PC. Tarlow was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award twice during law school, and was a leading advocate for his team in their first place finish in the Spurgeon Bell Memorial Mock Trial tournament.

After passing the bar exam and helping to found the Laird Valez law firm, Tarlow traveled throughout much of Asia and Africa. Tarlow bring a wealth of knowledge to the world of tourism through legal skills and his numerous international travels.



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Ginger restaurant is a welcome addition to the renovated Alhambra Mall


Sushi assortment with seaweed salad

Progress is being made on the completion of what will become an impressive center for shopping, dining and entertainment in the "low rise" hotel area at the Alhambra Mall. This complete makeover is resulting in a sleek, stylish environment and the eateries and facilities located within are following through; the newest addition, Ginger Restaurant, is a perfect example.

Ginger is an expanded version of the restaurant that is part of the Tamarijn all-inclusive resort, and its popularity there prompted Divi management to offer a full-blown outlet of the Pacific Rim fusion cuisine. This chic, charming little eatery is what the area needed, and after a soft opening a few weeks ago, is already garnering a loyal clientele.

Ginger is the newest branch of a small, very popular boutique franchise out of Holland, where Divi sent their Chef Danie to train before opening the Aruba edition. "Though relatively young (30) to be running a kitchen, we couldn't be more pleased with her creativity and passion for her profession," confided Aruba Divi Properties Manager Alex Neuiwmeier, "We are fortunate to have some great talent


Chef Danie displays the Teppen

Spicy Shrimp with Emping
here."

Aruban media was invited to discover the pleasing and reasonably priced menu, and were duly impressed. Thai Green Curry and Chicken Tikka Masala earned raves from reporters; MORN-ING NEWS taste testers tried the Malaysian Otak Otak, an assortment of salmon, local fish and shrimp wrapped and cooked in a banana leaf. The sauce was perfectly sweet-spicy without overwhelming the taste buds, the fish moist


Malaysian Otak Otak with fried rice

and tender. Main courses are served with a choice of white or fried rice or noodles.

Ginger features a wide range of flavors from Japan, China, Thailand, India and Malaysia, so there are choices of the familiar, but some tasty new adventures in Pacific Rim cooking. Main courses range from \$15 to \$19 and the restaurant is open from 5:30 to 11:00 PM for dinner.

There is a very appealing dessert selection, but we had to try the signature Ginger Lemon Cream, (a tangy, light lemon mousse with fresh ginger sauce) which paired with some green tea, was the perfect end to the meal; highly recommended. A lovely extra touch of luxury: hot towels delivered to your table at the end.

Ginger Restaurant sports chic setting, tasty and reasonably priced food and excellent, congenial service; looks like a winner!

By Rosalie Klein

Patrons receive hot towels when meal is done

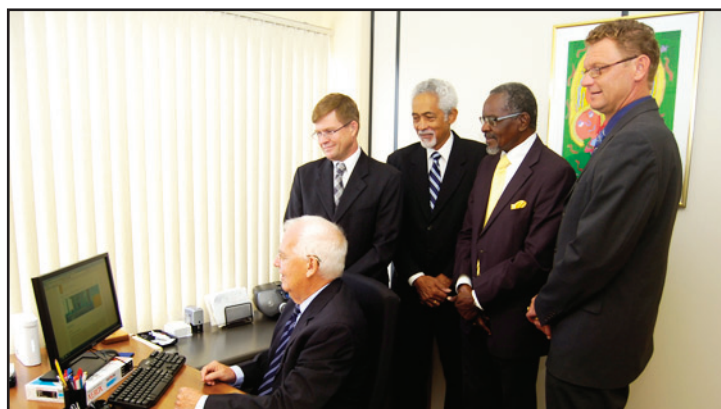
Perfect dessert Lemon Ginger Cream and Green Tea

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National Advice Counsel launches Website



President of the National Advice Counsel of Aruba, Mr. Arie Swaen, officiated the launching of the website of this national consultative organization.

The purpose of the website is to provide the Aruban community with more information regarding the function, structure and format for providing counsel to the government. The website will also provide visitors with information regarding the tasks, working format and the constellation of this important organism.

Previous counsel prepared by the National Council of Advice will also be available

on the website. The National Council of Advice is the highest independent advising body to the government and Parliament of Aruba with respect to legislation and governance. The counsel is comprised of five members and a secretariat.

The launching of the website took place in the presence of members of the Counsel and the staff of the secretariat. The new website will provide all citizens with relevant up to date information regarding legislative matters under their jurisdiction.

The website address is: www.rva.aw



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International News

West to pay Afghan military \$4 bn a year: Karzai

KABUL (AFP) - The West will subsidise Afghan security forces by more than \$4 billion a year after US-led troops leave in 2014, President Hamid Karzai said Thursday, implicitly accepting a cut in the planned size of his military.

Western officials told AFP that no final agreements had been reached on funding or on the size of Afghanistan's security forces after combat troops in NATO's US-led International Security Assistance Force withdraw.

But Karzai told a graduation ceremony at a military academy in Kabul: "It's set that post 2014, for the next 10 years until 2024, the international community, with the US in the lead and followed by Europe

and other countries, will pay Afghanistan security forces \$4.1 billion annually."

It would cover both the army and "other armed forces", he said, adding: "We agree and thank them."

Karzai's Western allies in the war against Taliban insurgents want to avoid the country descending into civil war after they leave.

But while NATO officials have long projected future Afghan forces at 352,000 men, the United States recently circulated a proposal for a total strength of 230,000, and Western officials say the \$4.1 billion cost is based on that figure.

It is a fraction of current Western spending on the war.

The 10-year conflict has cost the United States, alone, more than \$444 billion.

But Afghan defence officials have expressed concerns over whether security forces 230,000 strong would be adequate.

Following Karzai's speech, a Western official stressed that the numbers were part of a model being discussed in the run-up to the NATO summit in Chicago in May, nothing had been decided and "everything is conditions based".

Kabul and Washington have a frequently strained relationship, and are currently negotiating a long-term strategic partnership agreement to establish their relationship after 2014.

Three more bodies found in cruise ship wreck

(AFP) - Three more bodies were found in the wreckage of the semi-submerged cruise liner Costa Concordia on Thursday and will be recovered in the next few days, Italy's civil protection agency said.

"Three bodies were found today in the stern of the ship by a remote controlled robot which was searching the area. They will be recovered in the next few days," a civil protection agency spokesman told AFP.

"After so long in the water they will be difficult to identify," he said.

The Costa Concordia was carrying 4,229 passengers and crew when it struck rocks off Giglio island in Tuscany and keeled over on the night of January 13, killing 32 people.

So far 28 bodies have been found -- including the three discovered on Thursday -- but there are still four missing.

Salvage workers who began pumping 2,400 tonnes of fuel oil from the ship's tanks on February 12 were in the very last stages of the operation and "will be finished by Saturday," the agency said.

Italian prosecutors have placed the ship's captain, Francesco Schettino, and first officer, Ciro Ambrosio, under investigation for the disaster.

Dozens of survivors have launched lawsuits against cruise line Costa and its US parent company Carnival Corp in France, Germany and the United States and Costa has offered uninjured passengers 11,000 euros each plus expenses as compensation.

Police chief quits after US black teen shot dead

FLORIDA (AFP) - The police chief at the center of a growing storm in the United States over the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a white crime watch volunteer stepped down temporarily Thursday.

Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee, who has been criticized after his department failed to arrest self-appointed watch captain George Zimmerman, said he was leaving his post temporarily because he had become a "distraction."

A million people have now signed an online petition calling for justice for 17-year-old Trayvon Martin shot and killed by Zimmerman in a gated Florida community on February 26.

Zimmerman says he acted in self-defense, after the teenager instigated a violent confrontation and he has not been arrested or charged with

any crime.

Local law enforcement officials say they believe Zimmerman cannot be prosecuted thanks to Florida's landmark 2005 "Stand Your Ground" law, which allows state residents to use lethal force in self-defense.

The extent of the public anger in the explosive case and the degree to which it has dominated the national media is surprising even for the United States, where lingering racial wounds regularly become national talking points.

In this case, those crying for Zimmerman's arrest have noted that he called the police several times while tracking the actions of the teenager, whom he said looked "real suspicious," according to transcripts released by police.

Although he was told by dispatchers not to pursue the youngster, Zimmerman appar-

ently followed him anyway, eventually shooting him with his nine millimeter handgun, although the exact circumstances remain unclear.

Much of the public resentment has focused on Lee, with local officials late Wednesday passing a "no confidence" measure over his handling of the incident.

Sanford's city manager Norton Bonaparte said his community and the nation were going through a "very difficult time" in the wake of the incident. He called for an independent review of police action.

Some residents of Sanford, and the larger African American community across the United States, said the case is the latest example of the racial profiling and unjust treatment of blacks by the country's criminal justice system.

Toulouse killer was on 'no-fly' list, US official says

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The self-proclaimed Al-Qaeda militant who killed seven people in France, including three Jewish children, was on a US "no-fly" list, a US intelligence official told AFP Thursday.

Mohamed Merah, who died Thursday in a hail of bullets after a 32-hour standoff with elite French police in Toulouse, had been on the list for "some time," the official said asking to remain anonymous.

The list, which is put together by the US authorities, bans those named on it from boarding flights to or from the United States.

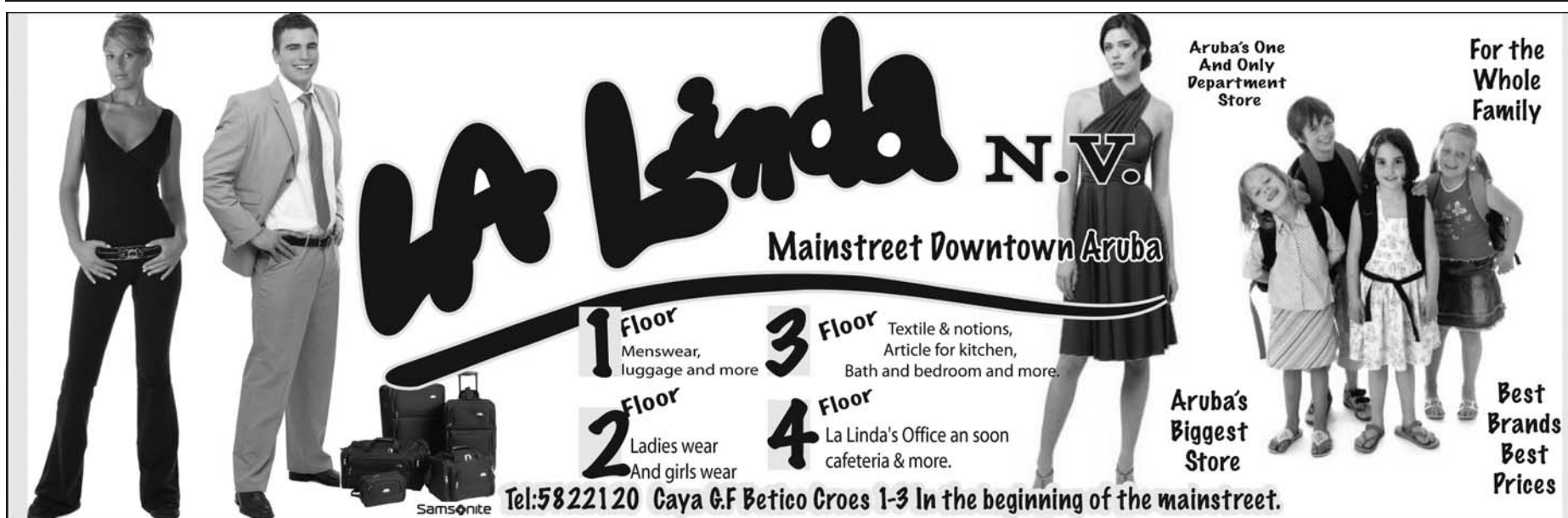
Merah, 23, who admitted shooting dead three soldiers and three children and a teacher at a Jewish school died in an intense firefight as he tried to shoot his way out of

his surrounded apartment in southwestern Toulouse.

France's chief anti-terror prosecutor, Francois Molins, said Merah had taken responsibility for the shootings, claiming to be avenging Palestinian deaths and opposing the French military's involvement in Afghanistan and France's ban on full-face veils.

He said the militant had also claimed to have been trained by Al-Qaeda in Waziristan, a tribal area of Pakistan known as a haven for Islamist insurgents connected to Taliban guerrillas.

Molins said he had gone to the region twice and on one occasion been arrested by Afghan police and handed over to US army troops, who put him on a flight back to France.



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International News

Mali junta shuts borders after coup, president safe

BAMAKO (AFP) - Coup leaders in Mali Thursday ordered all borders closed after taking over key buildings in Bamako and ousting President Amadou Toumani Toure overnight, sparking international concern and condemnation.

The band of mutineers, calling themselves the National Committee for the Establishment of Democracy, said their move was prompted by government's "inability" to put down a Tuareg-led insurrection in the north.

Sporadic gunfire rang out in the capital as condemnation poured in from western powers and the African Union urged "the mutineers immediately to put an end" to the country's first coup in 21 years.

France suspended cooperation with its former colony, urging soldiers not to harm Toure who was at a military camp under protection from his elite paratrooper guard. It remained unclear how tight the junta's grip on power was.

Washington, which has repeatedly foisted fears parts of Mali and neighbouring countries were becoming a safe haven for jihadi extremists, called "for the immediate restoration of constitutional rule."

While politically stable, smouldering troubles in Mali's north where light-skinned Tuareg tribes have long felt ignored by a southern government and Al-Qaeda has taken deep root, turned the region into a tinderbox.

This was ignited when the demise of Moamer Kadhafi sparked the return of hundreds of heavily-armed Tuareg rebels who had fought for him in Libya and were ready to take up a decades-long struggle for independence.

What began as a mutiny over the government's response to the rekindled Tuareg insurrection in the north on Wednesday afternoon turned into a full-blown coup as soldiers seized control of the presidential palace and the state broadcaster.

A few dozen soldiers appeared on the screens after hours of music videos played in a loop. They appeared to be largely rank-and-file greenberet soldiers, with only two officers present.

Their spokesman Lieutenant Amadou Konare said the takeover was a result of a "lack of adequate material to defend the nation".

Claiming to represent the nation's defence forces, Konare said the junta "solemnly commits to restore power to a democratically-elected president as soon as national unity and territorial integrity are re-established."

The man presented as their leader, Captain Amadou Sanogo, said a curfew would be imposed but did not specify hours and in a subsequent televised announcement, the junta said all borders were closed "until further notice".

French police kill 'Al-Qaeda' militant as battle ends siege

TOULOUSE (AFP) Police used overwhelming firepower Thursday to end the 32-hour siege of a killer whose murders of schoolchildren and soldiers traumatised France and briefly halted a presidential campaign.

The self-proclaimed Al-Qaeda militant died in an intense firefight as he tried to shoot his way out of his surrounded apartment when officers from special police forces moved in.

An Al-Qaeda linked group, Jund al-Khilafah, claimed responsibility for his shootings in a statement posted on jihadist websites.

The seven killings shocked France, home to western Europe's largest Jewish and Muslim minorities, and raised questions about intolerance and security failures in the midst of a hard-fought presidential election campaign.

Mohamed Merah, who admitted shooting dead three soldiers and three children and a

teacher at a Jewish school -- murders he filmed with a video camera -- opened fire on police after officers from the elite RAID force stormed his flat in the southwestern city of Toulouse.

Police said the 23-year-old burst out of the bathroom and shot at police before jumping out the window of his first-floor apartment, still firing as he fell, in a bid to escape.

France's chief anti-terror prosecutor, Francois Molins, said Merah was shot in the head while wearing a black djellaba, a traditional loose-fitting North African robe, and a bullet-proof vest.

He said police had been told to do everything possible to take Merah alive but had no choice when he opened fire "at an incredible rate".

He said police were searching for "any accomplices who may have convinced him to commit these acts or provided him with the means to commit them."

Assad's wife faces EU travel ban: diplomats



BRUSSELS (AFP) - President Bashar al-Assad's wife Asma, a Western-educated former banker and style icon, faces an EU travel ban and asset freeze along with other members of Assad's family, diplomats said Thursday.

Asma al-Assad is on a list of 12 Syrians, including a handful of the president's relatives, to be put to European Union foreign ministers Friday for a decision to bar them from travel and freeze their accounts across the 27-nation bloc.

The ministers, who in 12 previous rounds of sanctions against the Assad regime have already blacklisted some 150 firms and people, will also decide whether to add two extra firms to the list.

Assad himself was targeted by EU restrictive measures as far back as May.

In the latest sanctions aimed at ending the regime's relentless repression of dissent, the EU last month slapped a freeze on Syria's central bank.

It also banned trade in gold and precious metals with Syria and cargo flights to the EU operated by Syrians.

The bloc has already imposed oil and arms embargoes

against Syria in response to a crackdown that has left more than 9,000 people dead in a revolt against Assad that began as peaceful protests before rebels took up arms.

As a British-born and British-educated onetime banker, it was widely believed Asma al-Assad's grounding in Western values would help give the regime a more human face and shatter the isolation of the secretive Assad family.

But in the last weeks the first lady once described as a "rose in the desert" has become the focus of sharp criticism after Britain's Guardian newspaper released e-mails showing the ruling couple shopping for luxury goods as the country slid into bloody chaos.

The mother of three, a picture of glamour in designer outfits and trademark Christian Louboutin shoes, has often been compared to the likes of Queen Rania of Jordan or France's Carla Bruni, with a reported fondness for Chanel in particular.

Tall, stylish and charismatic, her impeccable British accent and credentials have helped promote the soft side of an iron-fisted regime.

Though her British passport provides a safe exit there, a diplomat said she would be banned from travelling to the other 26 EU nations.

An EU diplomat said no joint move was expected on closing EU embassies in Damascus unless the situation deteriorated.

Six of the 19 EU nations with embassies in Syria have left -- Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain -- while the bloc has offered space in its delegation to any member wanting to close its premises but leave officials behind.

Health & Living

Blood test could predict heart attacks: US study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US researchers have found oddly-shaped blood cells in heart attack patients, indicating that a blood test could help predict whether a patient is at risk of an imminent cardiac emergency.

The study by the Scripps Translational Science Institute (STSI) found that the endothelial blood cells from heart attack patients are abnormally large and misshapen, sometimes appearing with multiple nuclei.

That could make them reliable indicators of an impending heart attack, according to the study published this week

in Science Translational Medicine.

"The ability to diagnose an imminent heart attack has long been considered the holy grail of cardiovascular medicine," said Eric Topol, the study's principal investigator and director of STSI.

Doctors have long been able to identify risk factors -- such as smoking, obesity and high cholesterol -- that can put patients at greater danger of heart disease, but cannot predict imminent attacks.

The study involved 50 patients who showed up at emergency rooms with heart attacks at four acute care hos-

pitals in San Diego, California, and who were found to have the unusually shaped cells.

"With some additional validation, the hope is to have this test developed for commercial use in next year or two," said researcher Raghava Gollapudi.

"This would be an ideal test to perform in an emergency room to determine if a patient is on the cusp of a heart attack or about to experience one in the next couple of weeks.

"Right now we can only test to detect if a patient is currently experiencing or has recently experienced a heart attack."

White rice link seen with Type 2 diabetes, says study



(AFP) - Health researchers said they had found a troubling link between higher consumption of rice and Type 2 diabetes, a disease that in some

countries is becoming an epidemic.

Further work is need to probe the apparent association and diets that are notoriously high in sugar and fats should remain on the no-go list, they cautioned.

White rice is the dominant form of rice eaten in the world. Machines produce its polished look by hulling and milling, leaving a grain that is predominantly starch.

Brown rice, by contrast, has more fibre, magnesium and vi-

tamins, and a lower "glycaemic index," a measurement of sugar content, than white rice.

Diabetes affects nearly 350 million adults worldwide, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Diet is only one factor in Type 2 diabetes, a complex disease that involves high levels of blood sugar that cannot be processed by the hormone insulin. Obesity and lack of exercise are also cited as culprits.

Ibuprofen reduces altitude sickness, US study says

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The anti-inflammatory drug ibuprofen can reduce acute altitude sickness suffered by a quarter of the millions of people who travel to the mountains to ski or hike, according to a clinical study published.

Grant Lipman, the Stanford University researcher who led the study, described altitude sickness as being like "a really nasty hangover."

The symptoms include headache, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and poor appetite.

In the worst cases, altitude sickness can cause cerebral edema, an often fatal brain swelling.

Ibuprofen, an active ingredient in over-the-counter painkillers like Advil, reduced altitude sickness symptoms by 26 percent in a study of 58 men and 28 women, Lipman and his research team reported.

The study was published in the online version of the An-

nals of Emergency Medicine.

The study participants traveled to an area of the White Mountains northeast of Bishop, California, where they spent the night at 4,100 feet.

At 8 am, they were given either 600 milligrams of ibuprofen or a placebo before heading up a mountain to a staging area at 11,700 feet. There, they were given a second dose at 2 pm.

They then hiked to 12,570 feet, where they received a third dose at 8 pm before spending the night on the mountain.

Of the 44 participants who received ibuprofen, 19, or 43 percent, suffered symptoms of altitude sickness, whereas 29 of the 42 participants who received placebos had symptoms, according to the study.

In other words, ibuprofen reduced the incidence of the illness by 26 percent, the report said.

Among study participants

who suffered altitude sickness, symptoms were less severe in the persons who took ibuprofen, the researchers reported.

At high altitudes, decreased atmospheric pressure reduces oxygen molecules in the air, making it harder for people to breathe.

Some researchers believe altitude sickness occurs because a lack of oxygen to the brain causes it to swell with fluids. Ibuprofen appears to reduce the swelling, according to the Stanford researchers.

Other altitude sickness drugs are available, such as acetazolamide and dexamethasone, but they can have more undesirable side effects than ibuprofen, according to the researchers.

Ibuprofen's milder side effects can include the possibility of gastrointestinal and kidney problems in people who are dehydrated, the researchers said.

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Brazil temporarily suspends breast implant imports



BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil said Wednesday it has temporarily suspended the import of breast implants pending quality control tests in the wake of last December's health scare over defective French-made implants.

A spokeswoman for the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) said a resolution had been approved to insist that the implants be allowed into the country only after quality certification.

ANVISA set minimum requirements for the implants, which means they will have to go through laboratory testing to verify material resistance, silicone composition and biological trials, a statement said.

The agency said the certification process might take two weeks.

In December, Brazil banned French-made PIP and Dutch-

made Rofil silicone implants over their potential rupture risks.

Breast implants produced by the now-bankrupt Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) were banned in Brazil in April 2010 when problems were first reported, but 25,000 implants had already been performed, according to ANVISA. Around 100,000 women get silicone breast implants in Brazil each year.

PIP was shut down and its products banned in 2010 after it was revealed to have been using industrial-grade silicone gel that caused abnormally high rupture rates.

Some 300,000 women in 65 countries are estimated to have had PIP implants and more than a dozen countries in Europe and Latin America urged women to have checkups.

Sci-Tech

New device invisible to magnetic fields: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - European researchers said Thursday they have created a device invisible to a static magnetic field that could have practical military and medical applications.

Fedor Gomory and colleagues in Slovakia and Spain designed a cloak for a direct current, or dc, magnetic field that is static and produced by a permanent magnet or coil carrying a direct current.

DC magnetic fields are used in MRI imaging devices, in hospitals and in security systems, such as those in airports.

The researchers' device, described in a study in Friday's edition of the journal Science,

features a cylinder with two concentric layers. While the inner layer consists of a superconducting material that repels magnetic fields, the outer layer is a ferromagnetic material that attracts them.

Placed in a magnetic field, the device has no effect on the field lines, showing neither a shadow nor a reflection. So an object inside the device cannot be detected.

"There are many applications -- for some cars, ships or a submarine," said study co-author Alvaro Sanchez of the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

He told AFP the device could also be used for patients who have a pacemaker and

need a MRI of a knee or other body part, so the image would not be distorted.

Because it is made from commercially available materials, as well as operating under relatively strong magnetic fields and relatively warm liquid nitrogen temperatures, the device could easily be put to practical use, according to the authors.

"For the submarine, you have to make a shell around the submarine that will make the submarine magnetically undetectable," said Sanchez.

"This could also be used to protect some (military and medical) equipment against electromagnetic disturbances."

Spongebob beware: 'Robojelly' eyes the oceans

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists are developing a robotic jellyfish which uses the limitless energy of sea water to power its movement, according to US Navy-backed research published on this week.

"Robojelly" mimicks the action of the jellyfish, which uses a circular muscle to open out a bell-like body and then sharply close it, which expels water and moves the creature forward.

The robot's body is made of

eight segments made of shape-metal alloy -- metals that remember their original shape after being scrunched up.

They are coated with a platinum black powder, which reacts with the oxygen and hydrogen components of sea water to create heat.

The heat travels to the robot's artificial muscles, causing the eight bell segments to contract and thus eject the water. After contraction, the segments relax and regain their original shape.

"To our knowledge this is the first successful powering of an underwater robot using external hydrogen as a fuel source," said Yonas Tadesse,

an Ethiopian-born mechanical engineer at Virginia Tech.

Still in the lab phase, Robojelly goes in only one direction because all eight segments are activated at the same time.

The next step will be to power each segment, enabling the robot to move and be controlled in different directions.

The study appears in the journal Smart Materials and Structures, published by Britain's Institute of Physics.

A video of the gadget -- powered by electricity rather than by sea water in order to demonstrate its motion -- can be seen here (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2OSJQHq8r/>).

Solar power station in Spain works at night

ANDALUSIA (AFP) - A unique thermosolar power station in southern Spain can shrug off cloudy days: energy stored when the sun shines lets it produce electricity even during the night.

The Gemasolar station, up and running since last May, stands out in the plains of Andalusia.

From the road between Seville and Cordoba, one can see its central tower lit up like a beacon by 2,600 solar mirrors, each 120 square metres (1,290 square feet), that surround it in an immense 195-hectare (480-acre) circle.

"It is the first station in the world that works 24 hours a day, a solar power station that works day and night!" said Santiago Arias, technical direc-



The Torresol Energy Gemasolar plant in Fuentes de Andalucía near Seville.

tor of Torresol Energy, which runs the station.

The mechanism is "very easy to explain," he said: the panels reflect the sun's rays on to the tower, transmitting energy at an intensity 1,000 times higher than that of the

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Energy is stored in a vat filled with molten salts at a temperature of more than 500 degrees C (930 F). Those salts are used to produce steam to turn the turbines and produce electricity.

It is the station's capacity to store energy that makes Gemasolar so different because it allows the plant to transmit power during the night, relying on energy it has accumulated during the day.

As a result, the plant produces 60 percent more energy than a station without storage capacity because it can work 6,400 hours a year compared to 1,200-2,000 hours for other solar power stations, he said.

Helped by generous state aid, renewable energies have enjoyed a boom in Spain, the world number two in solar energy and the biggest wind power producer in Europe, ahead of Germany.

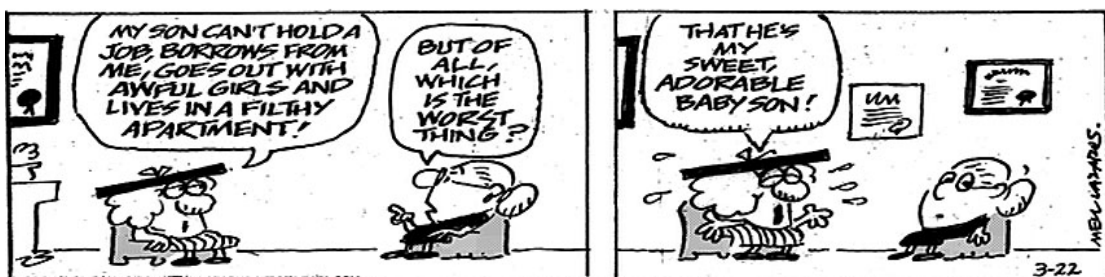
The investment for this exceeds 200 million euros (\$260 million).

COMICS

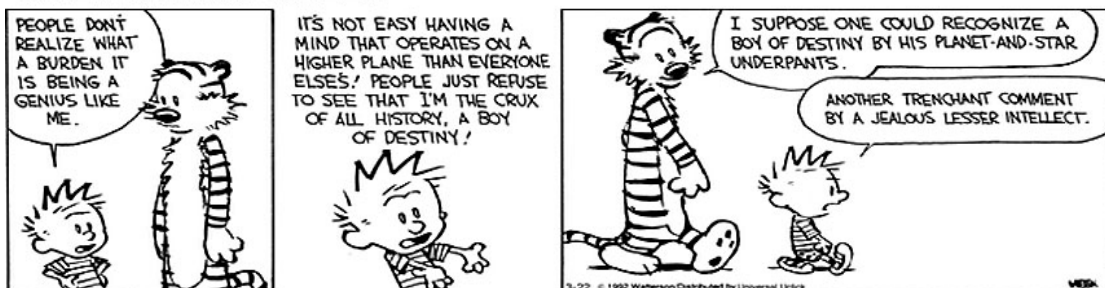
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Semi
5. Séance sound
8. Somewhat cold
12. State confidently
13. Scuba tank filler
14. "___ You"
15. Star followers
16. ___ de France
17. "Ugly Betty" magazine
18. Give help
20. Little pooch
22. Marked by injury
26. Annoying ones
30. Soft mass
31. Elizabethan ___

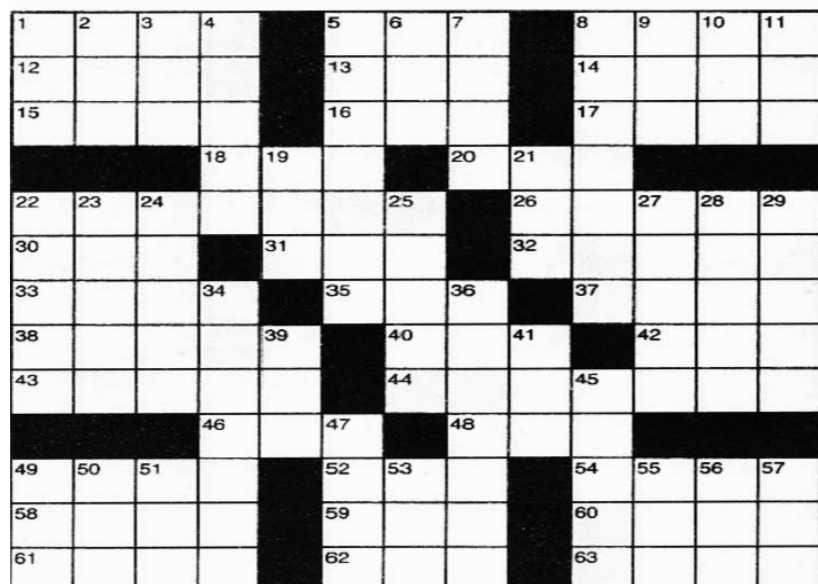
32. Gaze at
33. Take ___ the chin (2 wds.)
35. Fourth-year students (abbr.)
37. Musician Clapton
38. Clean by rubbing
40. Sheep she
42. Liable (to)
43. Clip wool
44. Boils with anger
46. Whether or ___
48. Fla.'s neighbor
49. Brass component

52. Eliminate
54. Caboose's position
58. Author Wiesel
59. ___ Lanka
60. Toothy game fish
61. Added additions
62. Seamstress's fastener
63. Break suddenly

DOWN

1. Spotlight hog
2. Actress Gardner
3. Limb
4. Monastery

5. "___ of the Lost Ark"
6. Be unwell
7. ___ school
8. Vie
9. "Sail ___ Ship of State!" (2 wds.)
10. Like King Cole
11. Caustic cleanser
19. Rage
21. Raises
22. Dotted ___
23. Snag
24. Venerate
25. Is fearless
27. Fergie's first name
28. Something worthless
29. Groups
34. Subtle differences
36. Prepare to testify (2 wds.)
39. Sis's sibling
41. Snakelike fish
45. Drop cloths, for short
47. Recipe abbr.
49. Tappan ___ Bridge
50. Under the weather
51. Zilch
53. Onassis, informally
55. Bonn "one"
56. Wanted poster inits.
57. Bush's party (abbr.)



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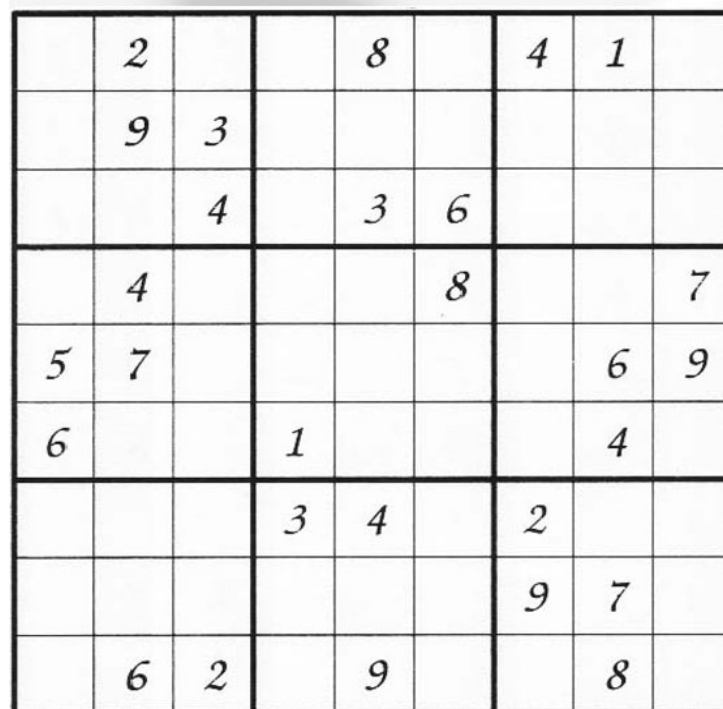
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1	8	5	6	3	9	7	4	2
4	9	2	1	7	8	6	3	5
3	7	5	6	4	1	8	9	2
6	9	8	5	2	7	1	4	3
2	5	1	8	9	6	7	3	4
8	6	4	9	5	7	2	1	3
5	2	9	7	1	4	8	6	3
7	1	3	8	6	9	2	5	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Oil retreats amid saber rattling on prices

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices pulled back Thursday in the face of international concern that high prices threaten the global recovery and news of weak Chinese economic data.

"The Saudi, European, and US coordinated effort to 'talk down' oil prices is proving moderately successful in the short term," said analysts at BMO Capital Markets.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate crude for May, finished the day at \$105.35 a barrel, down \$1.92 from Wednesday's closing level.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in May dropped \$1.06 to settle at \$123.14 a barrel.

Weighing on the market

was a fresh sign of cooling growth in China, the world's second-largest economy and second-biggest oil consumer.

Chinese manufacturing activity fell to a four-month low in March, HSBC bank said on Thursday, adding fuel to concerns over slowing growth in the world's second largest economy.

"China's manufacturing sector activity has fallen for the fifth consecutive month. It is further confirmation that all is not well in China," said PVM analyst David Hufton.

Analysts said oil also had been hit after France said industrialized countries were considering releasing part of their crude stockpiles to counter rising prices.

"It's significant that apart

from the US, a major power like France is talking about dipping into emergency stocks," Justin Harper, market strategist at IG Markets Singapore, told AFP.

"There has been a lot of talk about countries releasing their reserves and traders will be happy when they actually start doing that."

It follows repeated assurances from the world's top crude exporter Saudi Arabia that it would make up for a shortfall in Iranian output as Western sanctions over Tehran's suspected nuclear weapons program take effect.

The International Energy Agency has estimated that exports from Iran could plunge by about 800,000 barrels per day to one million in the second half of the year.

Hermes bags record profits with luxury goods despite crisis



PARIS (AFP) - Hermes is the latest luxury products group to show that economic crises can have silver linings, announcing record sales and profits on Thursday.

Hermes, a symbol of French chic in accessories such as handbags and silk scarves, reported a record year in 2011 with a 40.9-percent rise in net profit.

It also said it would line the purses of shareholders with a bumper, but one-off, dividend.

The results are a bonus also for French luxury giant and rival LVMH, which has also reported an exceptional year and is seen as a predator having built up a 22.28 per-

cent stake in Hermes.

European companies making luxury fashion clothing, watches and cars have reported strong or record profits and sales outlooks despite the long-running financial and then debt crises.

An underlying factor in their dynamic expansion is the appetite of new classes of consumers in emerging countries, notably Asia, for their high quality products which also serve as symbols of wealth, status and modernity.

Hermes reported record sales, and a net result of 594.3 million euros (\$787 million).

The new record was built on a strong performance in 2010 which was also a record year.

Hermes is capitalised at 25.7 billion euros.

Volkswagen says European automakers lack competitiveness

PARIS (AFP) - European auto companies must become more competitive, Volkswagen board member Christian Klingler said Thursday, while also dismissing talk that Europe's auto industry suffered from overcapacity.

"The debate about overcapacity is not the right one, the debate must address competitiveness," Klingler said at a news conference in Paris. Klingler was referring to recent calls by the heads of auto groups PSA Peugeot Citroen and Fiat that Europe had too many factories producing a surplus of cars.

Volkswagen, the new number two carmaker worldwide, earlier this month posted 2011 sales of 159.3 billion euros (\$209 billion), a gain of 25.6 percent on a 12-month basis.



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Lukoil, Samsung in deal to up Iraq output

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Lukoil signed a \$1 billion deal with South Korea's Samsung Engineering on Thursday to develop Iraq's second-biggest oil field, in which the Russian energy giant has a majority stake.

The agreement is part of efforts to increase to 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) crude output at the West Qurna-2

field in the south of the country, which has known reserves of 12.876 billion barrels.

Iraq, which relies on oil exports for the lion's share of government income, currently produces around three million bpd. The country holds the fourth-largest oil reserves in the world, according to the BP Statistical Energy Review.

Sony to sell chemical unit amid overhaul

TOKYO (AFP) - Sony said Thursday it was selling its chemical products division for a reported sum of nearly \$500 million as part of a major overhaul at the struggling electronics and entertainment giant. Sony, which is grappling with giant losses and fierce competition from the likes of Apple, said the Development Bank of Japan was buying the unit, which makes films used in liquid-crystal display (LCD) panels and other products. Sony did not divulge the sale price but the Nikkei business daily said the government-backed lender may pay as much as 40 billion yen (\$480 million) for the unit, which is part of Sony Chemical and Information Device Corp.



INDIA, SANAND : Ford executive director of manufacturing for Asia Pacific and Africa (APA) Felix Guillen (C) participates in a foundation stone laying ceremony near Sanand, some 60 kms from Ahmedabad on yesterday. Ford India laid foundations for a 1 billion USD manufacturing plant and inaugurated the site office near Sanand. (AFP PHOTO)



Current as of 3/22/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.780	1.800	1.820
Britain	GBP	2.760	2.810	2.870
Switzerland	CHF	1.9520	1.9592	1.9672
Netherlands	EUR	2.3341	2.3554	2.3791
Sweden	SEK	0.2542	0.2614	0.2694
Denmark	DKK	0.3072	0.3144	0.3224
Norway	NOK	0.2999	0.3071	0.3151
Japan	JPY	210.07	211.99	214.12
(per 10,000)				

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

TGIF EDNA BIO
HONEY SNOW ROE
YOGI PARAMOUR
GEN AIR
CHANT TIERS
LOB CLIPS DEE
AGA AAA GAL
RAT EMMYS ELL
KNEAD TERMS
LIV FAQ
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300 Danes mistakenly named billionaire lottery winners

COPENHAGEN (AFP) - Three hundred Danes believed a dream lifestyle of champagne and caviar awaited them this week after they were announced billionaire lottery winners -- until they discovered it was a mistake.

All 300 had received an email from the head of the Danish state-run lottery company Danske Spil congratulating them on the astronomical sums they had won, Danske Spil spokesman Thomas Roersig told AFP.

"Three hundred of our lottery players who won the lottery, the Keno, received a message saying they had won a sum in the billions. And they never won that amount ... We are of course very sorry. We

have now written to them to inform them of the sum that they really won," Roersig said.

One of the winners, Flemming Dahl, "was a billionaire for an hour and a half" on Tuesday after receiving an email informing him he had won 28 billion kroner (some 3.0 billion euros, almost \$5.0 billion), the online daily Nordjyske.dk reported.

"My heart leapt and I started thinking of all the things I was going to do with the money: take my family on holiday, buy a new house, a new car," he told the site.

Roersig said some of the gamers "were disappointed, others were furious and I can fully understand that, but most of them took it well."

Russian gay activists target Madonna concert

SAINT PETERSBURG, (AFP) - Gay activists vowed Thursday to hold protests during Madonna's concerts in Russia after she defied a call to boycott Saint Petersburg over a new law banning "homosexual propaganda."

Organisers of Russia's annual gay pride events said in a statement they planned to hold "two public protests during Madonna's August 7 concert in Moscow and August 9 concert in Saint Petersburg."

Saint Petersburg this month passed a controversial city-wide law that fines those "promoting homosexuality" to minors and apparently equates it with paedophilia, even though homosexuality is not a crime in Russia.

Activists, who had earlier called on tourists to boycott the picturesque tsarist-era city,



accused Madonna of hypocrisy after the star confirmed she would go ahead with her Saint Petersburg concert despite the "ridiculous" law.

A promoter of gay causes throughout her career and icon of its community, Madonna also promised to talk about it

and condemn it on stage. But Russia's gay activists remained unimpressed.

"We intend to protest against the hypocrisy of pop stars," the head of the city's branch of Gay Russia movement Yuri Gavrikov told AFP.

"If people like Madonna boycott their concerts particularly in Saint Petersburg that could have economic consequences, and that is important, while declarations of support for gay rights at concerts mean nothing."

Russian-American journalist Masha Gessen had appealed to Madonna to pull out of the concerts in a Monday blog entry on the The New York Times' website.

But Madonna wrote Wednesday on Facebook: "I will come to St. Petersburg to speak up for the gay community, to support the gay community and to give strength and inspiration to anyone who is or feels oppressed."

"I will speak during my show about this ridiculous atrocity."

Russia legalised homosexuality in 1993 after the fall of the Soviet Union but only ceased to class it as a mental disorder in 1999, and homophobic attitudes are still widespread.

Police have roughly broken up attempts to hold gay pride events in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. The authorities regularly refuse to sanction such protests, citing the public's negative attitude.

Pope seeks to boost faith in Latin America visit



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI makes his first trip to Spanish-speaking Latin America this week in a bid to revive the Catholic faith in the region, with visits to Mexico and Cuba.

The Church hopes the pontiff's visit will help boost the region's declining number of Catholics amid a rise in rival religions, and social changes such as gay marriage and legal abortion which the Church sees as the threat to family values.

The six-day program, starting in Mexico today, takes into account the frail health of the 84-year-old pontiff, who will oversee vast open-air masses but also have time for rest and avoid travel to high-altitude regions in Mexico.

The Mexican government has promised maximum security amid a wave of drug violence that has left more than 50,000 dead across the country since 2006.

The archbishop of Leon, Jose Guadalupe Martin

Rabago, even called on local drug gangs to call a truce during the visit.

The pope wants to "restructure Mexico on Christian values which are in the DNA of its people," said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican's second most senior official, in a radio interview Tuesday.

Mexico, where 83 percent of the population has been baptized, faces "formidable challenges, first of all those of violence, corruption, drug trafficking, which demand ... the engagement of all the religious, civil, (and) social authorities," Bertone said.

Benedict will arrive today in Mexico's central state of Guanajuato, where he will spend three nights in the city of Leon.

He will meet the faithful in the nearby colonial city of Guanajuato Saturday, and hold vespers in Leon Cathedral on Sunday with bishops from South and North America.

He will also hold a vast mass Sunday in the regional Bicentennial Park, which sits

below a towering statue of Christ the King on Cubilete Mountain. Hundreds of thousands are expected to greet the pontiff.

The pope however is also likely to face criticism over the Vatican's management of Mexico's most famous pedophile offender, Marcial Maciel, the founder of the conservative Legion of Christ order who was accused of molesting dozens of boys before his death in 2008.

On Monday Benedict is scheduled to travel to Cuba, where he must be careful to avoid creating friction between the Communist regime and the Church, which plays a leading role in the island's social sector.

Benedict's visit commemorates the 400th anniversary of Our Lady of Charity, a statue of Mary found in the sea and Cuba's patron saint, who is revered for her miracles.

The pontiff will meet President Raul Castro on March 27 at the presidential palace in Havana.

Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to

be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner — daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



SPORTS

Juve fined again for racist chants



Juventus have been hit with their third fine of the season for racist chanting by their fans during Tuesday's Italian Cup semi-final against AC Milan. Italian sporting authorities handed out a 20,000-euro fine, double the penalty Juve were given in January after racist chanting directed at Udinese's Pablo Armero, of Colombia, and Cape Verde-born Swiss international Gelson Fernandes.

They were also docked

10,000-euros in October after racist chanting against Inter Milan.

Milan players Sulley Muntari of Ghana and Dutchman Urby Emanuelson were the targets of the chants on Tuesday.

This latest fine confirms the Juventus fans' sorry record when it comes to racist chanting. They regularly abused Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli -- an Italian of

Ghanaian origin -- during his Inter days.

In 2008/09 Juve had to play a match behind closed doors after their fans racially abused Balotelli following a controversial incident during the team's clash with Inter.

That seemed to anger and galvanise certain sections of the Juve support who proceeded to regularly target Balotelli, even when not playing against his team.

The next season the club was punished four times, including a partial stand closure once, for fans' anti-Balotelli chants.

That season they were hit with 25,000-euro and 20,000-euro fines as well as the closure of the stand holding their 'Ultra' fans for one match, whereas this season the sanctions have been tame in comparison.

Serena Williams makes triumphant WTA return



nected on 64 percent of her first serves while surrendering only one service break to advance into the third round with an 80-minute triumph.

The 13-time Grand Slam singles champion will next face Italy's Roberta Vinci, who ousted Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova 7-5, 6-1.

Former World No. 1 Williams played for the US Fed Cup team last month, winning two singles matches in a 5-0 World Group II victory over Belarus.

But she had not been in a tour match since losing to Russia's Ekaterina Makarova in the round of 16 at Melbourne.

Five-time Miami winner Williams, the 10th seed on the women's side of the \$9.6 million event, withdrew before her Brisbane quarter-final match because of the ankle injury in her only other WTA start this year.

MIAMI (AFP) - Serena Williams made a triumphant WTA return in her first tournament match since the Australian Open, defeating China's Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-3 on Thursday at the WTA and ATP Miami hardcourt event.

Williams, who had been sidelined by a left ankle injury, fired six aces and con-

Roll over Beethoven - Maradona blasts Pele

DUBAI (AFP) - Diego Maradona kept up his attack on fellow World Cup winner Pele on Thursday by mocking the Brazilian legend's suggestion that he was the Beethoven of football.

"Beethoven! Never have I heard Beethoven on the pitch. The truth is they must have changed his medication," Maradona was quoted on the Al-Wasl website, the Emirati club which he coaches.

Pele had told the official FIFA website: "I was born for football, like Beethoven was born for music or Michelangelo was for painting."

But Maradona hit back.

"In that case, I am Ron Wood, Keith Richards and Bono rolled into one because I am the embodiment of passion in football."

Maradona also shrugged off comparisons with Argentine compatriot Lionel Messi who this week scored a record-setting 234th goal for Barcelona.

"It's not for me to say who is the best or the worst. I have always said a thousand times to leave Messi in peace," said Maradona. "Above everything else, the good thing when we talk about Messi and me is that there is a coloured man at FIFA who isn't happy that we are being discussed," he added in another barb at Pele.



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Monday - Sunday

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Brazil plays down delays in World Cup preparations

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo on Thursday played down delays in Brazil's preparations for the 2014 World Cup and in legislative approval of a bill regulating the top sporting event.

"The only thing that is not late in Brazil is a football match. The whistle goes off at the exact time. We will deliver the essential stadium projects and the urban mass transit" in time for the 2014 World Cup, the minister said in an interview with state radio and television.

Football's world governing body FIFA has for months voiced concern over whether infrastructure projects and renovation or construction of stadiums, are on track for the first World Cup in football-mad Brazil since 1950.

"We will carry out the task of staging the World Cup," Rebelo said as he reviewed the main stadium projects in the 12 Brazilian cities that will host World Cup games.

He compared the World Cup preparations to a carnival parade.

"Whoever follows preparations for a samba school parade thinks it will not be ready, but every year it comes out on time and becomes an event of reference," he said.

He also referred to the World Cup law currently blocked in the Chamber of

Deputies.

"This delay will not affect the schedule," Rebelo said and insisted that all the commitments to FIFA contemplated in the bill have already been guaranteed by the Brazilian government.

The bill sought by FIFA since 2007 would notably lift a ban on beer sales in stadiums during the World Cup. The vote has been repeatedly postponed.

Sales of alcoholic beverages in sports arenas have been banned in Brazil since 2003, but the bill would create an exception, allowing beer to be sold in plastic cups at World Cup matches.

FIFA has an agreement with its sponsor, the US-based Anheuser-Busch brand Budweiser, and prohibiting beer sales would cut into the football organization's revenues from the games.

The bill would also authorize 300,000 low-cost tickets for students and people over the age of 60.

Rebelo expressed confidence that Congress will approve the bill in March or April.

Last week President Dilma Rousseff and FIFA boss Sepp Blatter put a final end to a bitter row over criticism of Brazilian preparations for the World Cup.

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IndyCar returns safer after Wheldon tragedy

(AFP) IndyCar's 2012 season opens on Sunday with the debut of a safer chassis in the first race since last October's tragic death of English driver Dan Wheldon, last year's Indianapolis 500 winner, in a crash.

A field of 26 drivers is set for the IndyCar Grand Prix of St. Petersburg with Scotsman Dario Franchitti launching his bid to match France's Sebastien Bourdais by winning a fourth season title in a row.

That would give Franchitti, the husband of actress Ashley Judd, a fifth overall crown, second in IndyCar history, two shy of A.J. Foyt's all-time mark.

Drivers and teams have spent months testing the new

IndyCar chassis, which bears the initials DW in honor of Wheldon, who tested the design for months after winning at Indy before his fatal crash at age 33 in a race at Las Vegas.

In a fiery 15-car crash, Wheldon's car was catapulted into the air and into a safety fence, slamming into a pole to cause Wheldon severe head injuries.

IndyCar's return comes on the Florida streets where Wheldon won the debut St. Pete race in 2005. A street used for the race was renamed Dan Wheldon Way earlier this month in tribute, a plaque in his honor dubbing him "Lionheart".

"Sebastian and Oliver will be proud to know the impact

their father had in this community and the world of motorsports," Susie Wheldon said of her sons. "This is something that we can cherish for years to come."

Franchitti has seen racing rivals unite to make certain the new cars are as safe as possible.

Franchitti, Brazil's Tony Kanaan and England's Justin Wilson were among drivers who met with series officials after Wheldon's death to review safety changes planned for the new 2012 car design.

After Wheldon's death, a small vertical stabilizer was added to the chassis underwing safety changes to try and prevent cars from becoming airborne.

Morales defends crown against unbeaten Garcia

HOUSTON (AFP) - Mexico's Erik Morales defends his World Boxing Council light-welterweight title on Saturday against unbeaten American challenger Danny Garcia in Houston, Texas.

Morales, 35, is the first Mexican fighter to win world titles in four weight divisions -- superbantamweight, featherweight, super featherweight and light welterweight -- while Garcia is in his first world title bout at age 24.



Mexico's Erik Morales, pictured here in 2011

Morales, 52-7 with 36 knockouts, is 4-1 since ending a three-year layoff in 2010 and anxious to prove he has the form to face tougher foes, potentially England's Amir Khan, unbeaten American Tim Bradley or elite welterweights.

"Boxing is not just about strength and a few words," Morales said. "To beat a young man, to beat his speed, his dream, his hunger, will show I'm still at the top level."

Morales lost an interim world title fight to Argentina's Marcos Maidana by majority decision last April, but bounced back last September with a 10th-round stoppage of previously unbeaten countryman Pablo Cesar Cano to claim the vacant WBC crown.

The fight was delayed from January so Morales could undergo gallbladder surgery, but the veteran was determined to face Garcia, testing himself against a rising star to satisfy

his own questions about his status.

Garcia, 22-0 with 14 knockouts, is coming off a split-decision victory over compatriot Kendall Holt last November at Los Angeles.

American football: Sandusky seeks throw out of sex charges

HARRISBURG (AFP) - Jerry Sandusky, the former Penn State University assistant gridiron coach charged with sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years, asked a judge to throw out the charges on Thursday.

In a pre-trial motion, Sandusky argued that some of the 52 child sex abuse counts against Sandusky, 68, were not detailed enough, others lacked evidence and that a statute of limitations might have expired for eight alleged victims.

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Golf: Tiger feels good after 69 in PGA return



Tiger Woods plays a shot on the 14th hole during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

ORLANDO (AFP) - Tiger Woods put himself among the leaders at the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Thursday with a three-under par 69 in the opening round of his first US PGA tournament since an injury scare.

The 14-time major winner, chasing the all-time record of 18 major wins by Jack Nicklaus, pulled out of the World Golf Championships event at Doral two weeks ago in the final round with a tightness in his left Achilles tendon.

After a week of treatment with what was diagnosed as a strain, Woods played the two-day Tavistock Cup exhibition, a practice round on Wednesday and his first tournament round on Thursday at Bay Hill with no injury problems.

That's a good sign for Woods in his final tuneup event before the Masters, the year's first major championship, tees off in two weeks.

"I'm feeling good," Woods said. "Everything is good. No swelling. If I can just keep it that way, everything will be great."

Woods, who began off the 10th tee, birdied the par-5 12th and had back-to-back birdies at the par-4 15th and par-5 16th before taking his lone bogey at the day at 16. He answered with a final birdie at the par-5 sixth.

"I didn't really do anything great. I was just solid all day," Woods said. "I drove the ball well, hit my irons decent and putted all right."

"I took something off most of my drives. I didn't really feel great with my tee shots but I was getting the ball in play. Ball is flying forever. Normal drives go about 310 (yards). It was kind of nice."

Woods can feel the difference in his tee shots after spending much of last year nursing injuries.

"I'm in a position where I can hit it again. That's something that has been missing for a while," Woods said. "I feel that I can go ahead and hit that shot if called for and it's a nice little safety shot to have."

South Korean Charlie Wi and American Jason Dufner were the clubhouse leaders on 66, two strokes ahead of American Nick Watney with Woods among a host of players three adrift at the \$6 million event.

"I controlled the ball really well. I was able to make some putts," Wi said. "To shoot 66 is a very pleasant surprise."

Wi is not qualified for the Masters but would if he could win the \$1.08 million top prize.

"If I could give myself a chance to do it on Sunday I would be very happy," Wi said.

Dufner had five birdies, a lone bogey to close the front nine and an eagle at the 16th to match Wi atop the leaderboard.

Brazil's ruling coalition revolt delaying votes

BRASILIA (AFP) - A revolt within Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff's ruling coalition is roiling her legislative agenda, delaying votes on key bills on the 2014 World Cup and a new forestry code.

Rousseff suffered a setback in the Chamber of Deputies Wednesday when several of her allies joined the opposition and the pro-farming bloc in refusing to vote on the World Cup bill as demanded by football's world governing body FIFA.

The opponents demanded that the government first agree to a vote on amendments to the forestry code that would ease restrictions aiming to protect the country's forests.

"Parties and lawmakers have decided to obstruct all the votes as long as there is no vote on the forestry code," said conservative deputy Rubens Moreira Mendes, head of the powerful farming bloc.

The setback highlights the tensions within the ruling coalition, which includes 10 parties demanding more attention, powers and representation and that Rousseff needs as her leftist Workers Party (PT) has only 85 seats in the 513-member House of Deputies.

But he insisted that the delay in the vote "will not affect the schedule" of preparations for the World Cup and expressed confidence that Congress will pass the World Cup law in March or April.



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Lopes said the issue will not be resolved with finality and the differences will resurface.

Three months before it is to host the Rio+20 summit on sustainable development, the government has signaled that it will not endorse the new forestry code if it involves a major rollback of protection for the environment and the Amazon forest to accommodate farming economic interests.

The bill, which is backed by the powerful agribusiness sector and has already been approved in the Senate, would allow huge areas of the country to be farmed if they were illegally logged before July 2008, and would allow farming along environmentally sensitive riverbanks.

It was initially intended as a bid to rein in unfettered logging, and increase protections of Brazil's forests, which play a key role in reducing greenhouse gases.

But farm-based economic interests prevailed, and the bill was reshaped to ease restrictions that have been in place since 1965 and are credited with curbing deforestation.

During her 2010 election campaign, Rousseff pledged to reject the legislation, which critics said encouraged deforestation.

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